

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 904

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Jimmy Eldridge for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body should honor those fellow legislators who performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts during their time in office were dedicated to providing thoughtful and exemplary service to their districts and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jimmy Eldridge of Jackson is one such distinguished public servant, who has served the citizens of the 73rd House District and this legislative body with honor and ability as a member of the 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, and 110th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Representative Eldridge has served his constituents in Madison County with the utmost diligence in the performance of his elected duties and expended the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, as an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process, Representative Eldridge has rendered sterling service as chair of the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee during the 107th, 108th, 109th, and 110th General Assemblies, and as chair of the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Subcommittee of the 106th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a recognized leader among his fellow members, Representative Eldridge served as House Republican Caucus vice chair for the 104th and 105th General Assemblies and as Assistant Minority Floor Leader for the 103rd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during his extensive legislative career, he has served as a member of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, the House Health and Human Resources Committee, the House State and Local Government Committee, the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the House Calendar and Rules Committee, the House Ethics Committee, the House Local Government Committee, the House Family Justice Subcommittee, the House Health Care Facilities Subcommittee, the House Local Government Subcommittee, the House Consumer and Employee Affairs General Subcommittee, and the House Consumer and Employee Affairs Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, an ex-officio member of the Advisory Council on Workers' Compensation, Representative Jimmy Eldridge was appointed to the Tennessee Workforce Development Board in 2011 and to the West Tennessee River Basin Authority in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eldridge is a member of the National Association of Sportsmen Legislators, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and the National Council of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, the son of U.S. Air Force Colonel William W. Eldridge and Ella Frances Eldridge, Jimmy Eldridge was born on April 1, 1948, in Madison County; he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biology from Lambuth University, which he attended from 1969 to 1971, and completed graduate studies at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, an insurance agent, businessman, and farm owner, Representative Eldridge is the former owner of Allison-Eldridge Insurance Group, Inc., and a member of the Insurers of Tennessee and the State Association of Professional Insurance Agents of Tennessee, which he previously served as a member of the Government and Industry Affairs Committee, as a local president, and as a member of the State Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to public service, Jimmy Eldridge formerly served as a member of the Madison County Commission, as a member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Madison County Sheriff's Department, and as chairman of the Finance Committee to build Madison County Fire Station #10; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, he has donated his time and energies as a past chair of the Madison County Republican Party, chairman of the Board of Directors of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, former board member and Paul Harris Fellow of the Jackson Rotary Club, board member of the Jackson Symphony, board member of the West Tennessee Boy Scouts of America, advisory board member of Bancorp South, and supporter of Partner in Education (PIE) with the Jackson-Madison County school system; and

WHEREAS, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, Representative Jimmy Eldridge is a member of the Jackson-Madison County Chamber of Commerce; the American Association of Retired Persons; the Emmaus Community; the Pinson Ruritan Club; and The Chamber, Jackson; he is a supporter of The American Center for Law and Justice and a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Representative Eldridge was selected as the Outstanding Lambuth Alumnus for 2018 and has received the Legislative Aging Champion Award from the Tennessee Federation for the Aging; the Champion of Commerce Award from the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Outstanding Legislative Leadership Award and the Man of the Year award from the Tennessee Men's Health Network; the Legislator of the Year award from the Tennessee Development District Association; the 105.3 The Dove Award; the NFIB Guardian of Small Business Award; the United Way Legislator of the Year award; the Jo Helen Imani Award from Jackson Affordable Housing; and Legislator of the Year honors from the Southwest Tennessee Development District Association in 2004, 2013, and 2014; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Jimmy Eldridge is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife and their two children; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a legislator, Jimmy Eldridge has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jimmy Eldridge is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Jimmy Eldridge for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 73rd House District, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.